

The Intelligencer.

The West Virginia Insane Hospital--Semi-Annual Report of the Superintendent--Insanity on the Increase.

The Board of Directors of this institution was in session at Weston last week. The following members were in attendance: Alex. Monroe, of Hampshire county, J. L. Armstrong, of Jackson, T. A. McGinnis, of Cabell, Jas. Withrow, of Greenbrier, Matthew Edmiston, T. A. Edwards and J. W. Wolfenden, of Lewis, and Dr. M. F. Hullen, of Wheeling. To the latter gentleman we are indebted for some information in regard to the proceedings of the meeting. The Board organized by electing Judge Edmiston, President, and J. W. Wolfenden, Secretary, for the ensuing year. In accordance with advertisements, several bids were received for the construction of a hospital for the colored insane, and an engine house and laundry, in conformity to plans and specifications of C. C. Kemble, Esq., architect. But the lowest proposal, amounting by several thousand dollars the amount appropriated--fifty thousand dollars--for that purpose, the Board rejected them all. After further deliberation the Board resolved to modify the plans and specifications of Mr. Kemble so as to bring the work within the scope of the appropriation. Bids were then solicited on the new proposition, and Mr. H. K. Wilson, of Weston, was awarded the contract.

The semi-annual report of the Medical Superintendent shows the following changes for the past six months in the hospital records: Number of patients at the close of the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1875, three hundred and forty-nine; admitted since, seventy-five, making a sum total of four hundred and twenty-four. Of this number thirty-one were discharged, leaving in the hospital March 31st, 1876, three hundred and ninety-three. The greatest number in the hospital at any one time during the six months was three hundred and ninety-eight, and the lowest three hundred and forty-seven; daily average, three hundred and seventy-six and one-third. The cost per week for the maintenance of each patient was, in whole figures, \$2.31. This amount includes all current expenditures for salaries of officers and employees, bedding, clothing, food, heat, &c. It is eleven cents less per capita than is shown in the report for 1874, when there was an average of 2983 patients. If we add forty-six, the number of persons employed to look after these people, to the number already named, we have a household consisting of four hundred and forty-one. Dr. Hullen has taken the pains to obtain from the officers of the hospital the daily quantities of provisions used in maintaining this immense family, which we here annex:

next :			
Wheat.....	250 lbs	Flour.....	200 lbs
Butter.....	45 lbs	Eggs.....	75 dozen
Sugar.....	28 lbs	C. Sugar.....	150 heads
Rice.....	20 lbs	Turnips.....	8 bus
Coffee.....	16 lbs	Beans.....	2 bus
Tea.....	2 lbs	Potatoes.....	6 bus